

SOUVENIR . . . MAY 24, 1900

SE

Historic Demonstration

SE Dundurn Park SE



Official Program
Historic Sketch of Dundurn
Committee Lists
Hamilton's Business Men
Something to Keep

DEMONSTRATION DAY EVENTS PAGE 14 AND SUCCEEDING PAGES

Committee

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Something About Dundurn Park

HE transfer of that tract of land now known as Dundurn Park from the crown to Richard Beasley took place one year after the birth of the man who ultimately became possessor of the property and made it what it is to-day—the finest city park property in Canada. Sir Allan MacNab was born in 1798 and Richard Beasley secured the Dundurn property from the crown in 1799. Mr. Beasley was one of the first settlers in this part of the country, and in his crown grant there was included a much larger tract of land



WHERE THE BEARS ARE CONFINED.

than is now contained in Dundurn. Nor was that particular part of the grant anything like its present self. Then it had its wild growth of stunted trees and underbrush, and Mr. Beasley rapidly put the rolling acres under cultivation. For 33 years Mr. Beasley held the property, being its owner during the troublous times when the Americans undertook the task of annexing this portion of the Dominion. It was at the westerly portion of the park property, and overlooking the bay, that stone and earth breastworks were thrown up, in the expectation that the enemy would reach that far on its march of conquest. Happily the march ended at Stony Creek and the breastworks were not needed. Their

ruins may yet be seen along the bluft in Harvey Park and back in the cemetery

property.

It is not generally known that at one time the Dundurn Park property was owned by the father of Sir Richard Cartwright. This happened in the year 1832, when Mr. Beasley, who, by the way, was the grandfather of the present city clerk and his exact counterpart in personal appearance, sold to John Solomon Cartwight the park and a considerable acreage of other property. Mr. Cartwright evidently had no desire to engage in farming there, nor had he any thought of making a park of the property, for in the same year he sold out again to a gentleman then known as Allan MacNab, the price for the park and other property being £2,500. This young man named MacNab was born at Niagara, his grandfather being a major of the famous Black Watch regiment, the Royal For esters of Scotland, and the owner of a beautiful estate called Dundurn, at the head of Loch Hearn, Perthshire. His father was a lieutenant in a regiment of Dragoons and was attached to Gen. Simcoe's staff during the American revolutionary war.

With such a warlike and war-loving ancestry it was not to be wondered at that young Allan should early develop the spirit of militarism. He was a schoolboy when Toronto was attacked by the Americans, and his evolution from schoolboy to soldier was speedy. It was at his own request that he was put on board Sir James Yeo's ship as a midshipman, and it was because the navy did not afford good opportunity for fighting that he quickly left it and joined the One Hundredth regiment, under Col. Murray. He was with this regiment when the Niagara frontier was re-occupied, and also accompanied the advanced guard at the taking of Fort Niagara. As a reward for his services he was made an ensign in the Forty-ninth regiment. When the campaign ended he went to Montreal

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and formed a regiment which marched to the attack at Plattsburg, he having the

honor of commanding the advance guard at Saranac Bridge.

Being so tond of fighting it was natural enough, when the war was over, for him to study law. In 1825 he was called to the bar, and to him was the honor of being made the first Queen's counsel of Upper Canada. From law to politics was but a step, and in 1829 he was elected, with Hon. John Wilson, to represent 'he county of Wentworth. He served the County in three parliaments and was then elected for the city of Hamilton. Throughout his public career Sir Allar. MacNab was a conspicuous figure by reason of his unswerving loyalty. He and his men were responsible for the cutting loose of the rebel ship Caroline, in Niagara River, the craft going over the falls. When Mackenzie and his followers rose in rebellion in 1837, Sir Allan marshalled the Men of Gore and marched to Toronto, where he united with Sir Francis Bond Head in making the attack on the rebels.



SUMMER AT HAMILTON BEACH.

He was appointed speaker of the first parliament under the union and became prime minister in 1854, retiring two years later. In his old age as a public man Sir Allan was a great sufferer from gout. He spent two or three years in England, returning to Canada in 1860 and receiving an appointment to the legislative council. His death occurred not long afterward. It is recorded of him that when he made his last appearance in the house of assembly he was suffering so severely from gout that he had to be carried into the chamber by two serving men, his limbs being swathed in flannel bandages. It was during his term of office as premier that the militia act was adopted.

When Sir Allan MacNab purchased the Dundurn Park property in 1832 he had a definite idea as to what he intended to make of it. The location pleased him, and his determination was to make on the shores of Hamilton Bay a miniature of the ancestral Dundurn estate overlooking Loch Hearn in the motherland. Much had to be done to bring the change about, but the new owner was equal to the task he had set himself. Barns and farm houses were pulled down, plowed fields leveled and turned into grass, trees were planted

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Bel Air, Montreal. Buffalo Driving Club. and driveways made, so that in course of time a great change came about, and with its new name the place could not be recognised as its former self. With the improvements in the grounds came structural improvements. The castle as it stands to-day, was not only contemplated but begun and finished. Battery cottage and the great stone arch, which at one time marked the entrance to the grounds, were planned and built, and as the years went by Dundurn, the estate of Sir Allan MacNab, became known from one end of the country to the other, both for its natural beauty and for the princely character of its proprietor as a host. No Canadian public man ever entertained more lavishly than Sir Allan, and it is on record that no man ever was better thought of by his guests. It was in the castle that his royal highness, the Prince of Wales, was entertained on the occasion of his visit to Hamilton in 1859.

In those days the roadways around and through the park were not as they are now. At one time the public road over the heights ran between the castle and the battery cottage, and it was at the request of Sir Allan that the present roadway known as York street was made and used, the other roadway being closed up. At one time in the history of the park, battery cottage was used as

a registry office for a short time.

After the death of Sir Allan the executors of his estate disposed of the park property to three gentlemen who were believed to have been acting for a southern lady named May. This happened in 1871, and the price they paid for the property was \$20,000. The purchase was quickly turned over again, the new owners selling again in less than a year to Donald MacInnes, who remained its owner until the city purchased the property last summer, paying over \$20,000 more for it than Senator MacInnes purchased it for.

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Commercial Lighting, 25%. Residential Lighting, 50%.

A monthly charge of 25 cents for meter rental.

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Open cleat work, including rosette, cord and socket	.\$1.35 per outlet.
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" 10 "	

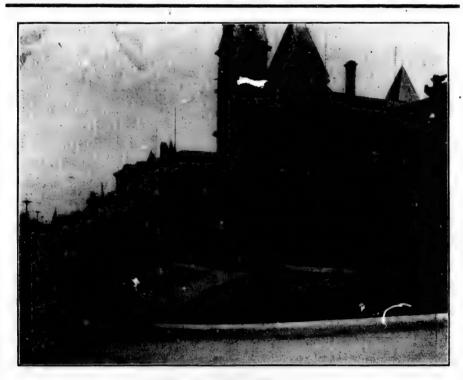


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Program.

MORNING.

- 9.30 Flag Raising, Gore Park Extension. S. O. E. Band, Mayor, Aldermen, Park Board and Canadian Club Officers.
- 10.00 Championship Baseball Match, Hamilton v. Grand Rapids, Baseball grounds, Dundurn Park.
- 10.30 Reception to Chapin Post, G. A. R., of Buffalo, at C. P. R. Station, Hunter Street.



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Program

. MORNING—Continued.

- 10.55 Grand Parade of Military, Society, and Trades Organizations with Bands. ROUTE—From Armory up James to King, to John, to Main, to Macnab, to King, to Locke, to Dundurn Park, through the Park to Dundurn street, to Florence, to Victoria Park.
- 12.00 Military Exercises at Victoria Park—Trooping of the Color, March Past, Feu de Joie and Royal Salute, Fourth Field Battery, Thirteenth, Nineteenth and Seventy-Seventh Regiments with Bands.

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Orogram

AFTERNOON—At Dundurn Park.

- 2.30 Children's Concert, 2,000 Voices and S. O. E. Band, Prof. Johnson, Conductor. On the lawn east of Battery Lodge.
- 3.15 Drill by Brantford Cadets, under Sergt.-Major Oxtaby; Hamilton Cadets under Sergt. Parkhill. Fancy Drill by Royal Foresters' Encampment (Toronto), with Trumpet Band. All drill on lawn fronting the Castle.

Orogram

AFTERNOON—Continued.

- 4.00 Patriotic Addresses on the lawn in rear of castle by Sir John Bourinot, Hon. Thos. Bain, M. P., Hon. E. J. Ewell of Buffalo, Hon. Dr. Montague, M. P., and other distinguished visitors.
- 4.30 Balloon Ascension and Parachute Drop, Profs. Bartlett and Durphy.

 Championship Baseball Match, Hamilton vs. Grand Rapids, in ball grounds. Band Concert by Sons of England Band. Opening of Castle for public inspection.

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Orogram

EVFNING.

- 8.00 Grand Electrical Illumination of Gore Park and City Hall. Magnificent Floral Display.
- 8.15 Marvellous Pyrotechnic Display in Dundurn Park, Finest ever seen in Canada. Sons of England and Seventy-seventh combined Band Concert, Dundurn Park. Thirteenth and Nineteenth Regiment Bands combined Band Concert in Armory.

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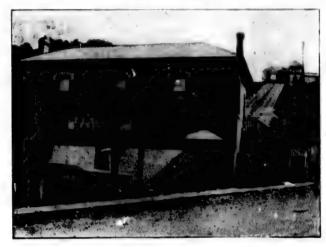
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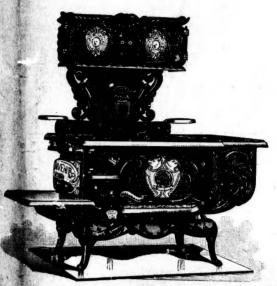
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